

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been rewritten as claim 18. Claim 18 sets forth a locking mechanism for an item of furniture having two or more drawers. The item of furniture has a plurality of spaced apart reference positions. Each drawer has associated with it a latching device which is co-operable with the item of furniture to allow opening movement of the drawer in a first position of the latching device and to prevent opening movement in a second position of the latching device.

Each of the latching devices is set forth in claim 18 as having a locating surface which is engagable with one of the reference positions. Engagement of the locating surface with a reference position positions a latching device relative to other reference positions and latching devices.

A connecting member is set forth in claim 18 as linking together the latching devices on all of the drawers. The latching devices are connected to the connecting member at positions which are spaced apart by the distances which are the same as differences between the reference positions on the item of furniture.

Claim 18 defines over the prior art, and particularly the patent to Killen (4,425,013), by setting forth:

- (1) a plurality of spaced apart reference positions on the item of furniture,

(2) each latching device having a locating surface which is engagable with one of the reference positions to position the one latching device relative to other reference positions and other latching devices.

The patent to Killen does not disclose a plurality of reference positions on a furniture item. The patent to Killen does not disclose latching devices having locating surfaces which are engagable with reference positions on an item of furniture to position the latching devices relative to each other. Furthermore, there is nothing in the patent to Killen which even remotely suggests having latching devices connected to a connecting member at positions which are spaced apart by distances which are the same as distances between reference positions on an item of furniture.

Claims 2 through 11 depend from claim 18 and define over the prior art for substantially the same reasons as does claim 18 and by virtue of the structure and function set forth in these claims taken in combination with the structure and function of claim 18. Specifically, claim 2 sets forth the latching devices as being releasably connectable to the connecting member.

Claim 3 depends from claim 2 and sets forth the latching devices as being connectable to the connecting member by means of a snap fit. There is nothing in the patent to Killen which even remotely suggests having latching devices connected to the connecting member by means of a snap fit.

Claim 4 depends from claim 18 and sets forth each latching device as having a peg on which the locating surface is disposed. The reference positions include holes which are engagable by the pegs on the latching devices. The

latching devices are connectable to the connecting member while the pegs are disposed in the holes.

Claim 5 depends from claim 18 and sets forth a connecting member as being designed to be located for slideable movement in a preformed groove in the furniture item.

Claim 6 depends from claim 18 and sets forth each of the latching devices as being arranged to cooperate with a pin associated with a drawer.

Claim 7 depends from claim 6 and sets forth the drawers as being mounted on the furniture item by runners and each pin as being mounted on a drawer runner.

Claim 8 depends from claim 6 and sets forth the drawers as being mounted to the furniture item in adjustable positions and each pin as being mounted on the drawer mounting means.

Claim 9 depends from claim 8 and sets forth the drawer mounting means as being configured to receive the mount for the respected pins at chosen positions.

Claim 10 depends from claim 8 and sets forth the pins as being mounted on their respected mounted means by means of a snap fitting. There is nothing in the patent to Killen which even remotely suggest having pins mounted on respective drawer mounting means by means of a snap fitting in the manner set forth in claim 10.

Claim 11 depends from claim 18 and sets forth the mechanism as operable additionally and selectively to disallow opening movement of all the drawers.

Claim 13 has been rewritten as claim 19. Claim 19 is directed to a method of assembly of a drawer locking device for a furniture item having a plurality of drawers. The drawer locking device includes blocking devices for blocking movement of a plurality of drawers and a connector for connecting the blocking devices such that movement of any one of the plurality of blocking devices caused by opening of the respective drawer causes a corresponding movement of the remaining blocking devices to positions in which opening of the drawers are blocked.

The method of claim 19 sets forth connecting the blocking devices with the furniture item at reference positions provided on the furniture item. The blocking devices are ineffective to block movement of the drawers when the blocking devices are in the reference positions on the item of furniture. The connector is connected to the blocking devices when the blocking devices are connected with the item of furniture at the reference positions. The blocking devices are disconnected from the furniture item while maintaining the blocking devices connected to the connector. The blocking devices are connected with the furniture item while maintaining the blocking devices connected to the connector.

Claim 19 defines over the prior art, and particularly the patent to Killen (4,425,013), by setting forth the following steps:

- (1) connecting blocking devices with the furniture item at reference positions,

(2) connecting a connector to the blocking devices with the blocking devices connected to the furniture item at their reference positions,

(3) disconnecting the blocking devices from the furniture item while maintaining the blocking devices connecting to the connector, and

(4) connecting the blocking devices with the furniture item while maintaining the blocking the devices connected to the connector.

There is nothing in the patent to Killen which even remotely suggests connecting a connector to blocking devices while the blocking devices are connected with a furniture item at reference positions. There is nothing in the patent to Killen which suggests disconnecting the blocking devices from the furniture item while the blocking devices are connected to a connector.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 19 and define over the prior art for substantially the same reasons as does claim 19 and by virtue of the method steps set forth in these claims taken in combination with the method steps of claim 19. Specifically claim 14 sets forth the reference positions as being defined by holes provided in the furniture item for assembly of respective drawer runners. The patent to Killen does not disclose connecting blocking devices with a furniture item at reference positions which are defined by holes provided in the furniture item for assembly of drawer runners.

Claim 15 depends from claim 19 and sets forth the reference positions as being defined by respective drawer runners for the plurality of drawers.

Independent claim 16 is directed to a drawer locking device. The locking device includes a plurality of blocking devices. Each of the blocking devices is movable between a first position permitting opening of a drawer and a second position in which opening of the drawer is blocked. A connecting member is provided for connecting the blocking devices.

The blocking devices are set forth in claim 16 as having a first connecting portion for releasable connection with respective reference connections associated with each drawer in the furniture item and a second connecting portion for connection with the connecting member. The arrangement is such that the connecting member can be connected to the second connecting portions of the blocking devices when the blocking devices are connected with the reference connections by the first connecting portions. The spacing between the blocking devices is determined by the reference connections.

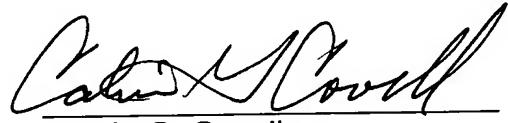
The prior art, and particularly the patent to Killen does not disclose blocking devices having: (1) a first connecting portion for releasable connection with reference connections and (2) a second connecting portion for connection with a connecting member. Furthermore, the patent to Killen does not disclose a connecting member that can be connected with connecting portions of the blocking devices when the blocking devices are connected with reference connections.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the claims in this application clearly and patentably be defined over the prior art. Therefore, it is

respectfully requested that the Examiner allow the claims and pass this application to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner call applicant's attorneys in Cleveland, Ohio at 621-2234, area code 216. Please charge any deficiency in the fees for this application to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



Calvin G. Covell
Reg. No. 24,042

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 26,294

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL, & TUMMINO L.L.P.
526 Superior Avenue – Suite 1111 Leader Building
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400
Phone:(216) 621-2234
Fax: (216) 621-4072

:38448.1